

**THE MENIL COLLECTION HOSTS NIGHT AT THE MENIL ON FEBRUARY 22 WITH
EXTENDED EVENING HOURS AT ITS MAIN BUILDING**

Main Building Temporarily Closes to the Public on February 26 for Updates and Repairs

**Spring 2018 Public Programs Activate Other Menil Galleries and Greenspaces Which Will
Remain Open throughout the Year**



HOUSTON, TEXAS, February 6, 2018 – The public is invited to enjoy a *Night at the Menil* neighborhood celebration on Thursday, February 22 from 5 to 9 p.m. The museum will remain open late, with food trucks and music performed by Keyun and the Zydeco Masters on the front lawn. The event, which is free of charge, offers an opportunity to visit the Menil Collection’s critically-acclaimed exhibition

Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma before it closes and also to see the permanent collection galleries before they temporarily go off view to the public. As previously announced, the Menil’s historic Renzo Piano-designed building will close for updates and repairs beginning Monday, February 26.

Projects include the refinishing of the museum’s Loblolly pine floors, replacement of non-loadbearing gallery display walls, enhancement of interior and exterior lighting, and updated fire detection sensors. The Menil is undertaking these projects with support from the *Campaign for the Menil*, the museum’s first comprehensive fundraising effort. The *Campaign*, which concluded on December 31, 2017, raised more than \$121 million (well over its \$115 million goal) for campus improvements and endowment. The building is expected to remain off view through the summer.

Said Menil Director Rebecca Rabinow, “Since it opened thirty years ago, the Menil Collection has drawn millions of visitors from Houston and around the globe. It proudly continues its commitment to beautifully displaying exceptional works of art in thought-provoking ways, always with free admission. The *Mona Hatoum* exhibition is a perfect example, and we look forward to celebrating it one more time. I’m pleased that while the main building is closed,

visitors will be encouraged to spend more time with the works of Cy Twombly, Dan Flavin, and Francis Alÿs's *Fabiola Project*. Furthermore, the Menil has some extraordinary public programs lined up this spring. Next fall, visitors will be treated to a stunning reinstatement of the permanent collection that will include some of our most beloved paintings as well as others that have never been on view."

Other Menil Buildings and Greenspaces Remain Open

Although the main building will be temporarily closed, the Menil Collection's other art buildings (Cy Twombly Gallery, Byzantine Fresco Chapel featuring *Francis Alys: The Fabiola Project*, and Dan Flavin Installation at Richmond Hall), bookstore, Bistro Menil, and green spaces will remain open to the public throughout this period. In addition, the Menil's library and archives will remain open to researchers with minimal disruption, and they can continue making appointments, as usual. Member benefits are not affected. Questions about member programs and events should be directed to the membership office at 713-525-9435 or membership@menil.org.

All galleries, public programs, and greenspaces are free and open to the public. Hours for all galleries and the bookstore are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Greenspaces are open daily from dawn to dusk. Bistro Menil is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Public Programs at the Menil

The Menil will continue to host public programs and events while the main building is temporarily closed, giving the Menil the chance to activate its other galleries throughout the spring.

Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon

The Menil Collection, library, 1533 Sul Ross Street

Thursday, February 22, 12–7 p.m.

In 2011, a Wikimedia Foundation survey found that less than 10% of contributors on Wikipedia were women. Art+Feminism is a campaign improving coverage of cis and transgender women, feminism, and the arts on Wikipedia. As part of this effort, the Menil Collection library will host a communal updating of Wikipedia entries on subjects related to art and feminism. The event will provide tutorials for the beginner Wikipedian, reference materials from the Menil Library, coffee and snacks, and community support. Participants should bring a laptop, power cord, and ideas for entries that need updating or creation. People of all gender identities and expressions are invited to participate. Registration is required. Please visit the events section of www.menil.org to register.

Night at the Menil

The Menil Collection, main building and front lawn, 1533 Sul Ross Street

Thursday, February 22, 5–9 p.m.

Visitors of all ages are invited to enjoy a *Night at the Menil* – an after-hours, free event with art, music, and food trucks. Beginning at 5 p.m., food trucks will be stationed on Mulberry Street (east of the main building). Keyun and the Zydeco Masters will perform on the front lawn from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hours for the main building’s permanent galleries will be extended to 9 p.m. along with the critically-acclaimed special exhibition *Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma*; the recently published exhibition catalogue will be available for purchase in the museum’s foyer. As always, admission is free.

Mary Jacobus

On Cy Twombly

Cy Twombly Gallery, 1501 Branard Street

Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m.

British scholar and art historian Mary Jacobus demonstrates how poetry was a vital source for Cy Twombly’s painting, as described in her rich analysis *Reading Cy Twombly: Poetry in Paint*, published by Princeton University Press. Jacobus will focus her lecture on, and deliver it next to, Twombly’s powerful *Untitled Painting (Say Goodbye, Catullus, to the Shores of Asia Minor)*, 1994. This program is made possible in part by a gift from the Jacob Scanlan Fund.

Dickie Landry Concert

Byzantine Fresco Chapel, 4011 Yupon Street

Friday, March 16, 7 p.m.

Since the early 1970s, musician, composer, photographer, and painter Dickie Landry has been presenting solo tenor saxophone concerts and exhibitions of his work around the world. He was a founding member of the Philip Glass Ensemble and appeared in *Einstein on the Beach*, the legendary opera. He has collaborated with numerous artists from various disciplines, including Laurie Anderson, Trisha Brown, David Byrne, Ornette Coleman, Richard Serra, and Paul Simon.

Arrivals and Departures: Cage, Cunningham, and Johns

Richmond Hall, 1500 Richmond Avenue

Sunday, March 25, 1 p.m.

A collaboration among the Menil Collection, Houston Ballet, and the Merce Cunningham Trust
Staged for Houston Ballet by former Cunningham dancers Patricia Lent and Andrea Weber, this hour-long performance includes excerpts from dances for which Jasper Johns provided costumes and decor, including *Canfield* (1969), *Landrover* (1972), *Un jour ou deux* (1973), and *Exchange* (1978). At the same time, a group of musicians perform compositions by John Cage, including his *Inlets*, *Branches*, *Third Construction*, *Cheap Imitation*, and *Telephones and Birds*. Dancers are Connor Walsh, Oliver Halkowich, Joshua Guillemot-Rodgers, Jessica Collado, Allison Miller, and Bridget Kuhns. Musicians include Ling Ling Huang, Brandon Bell, Craig Hauschildt, Luke Hubley, Brady Spitz, Yvonne Chen, Julia Fox, and Bethany Baxter. Seating is

limited and reservations are required. Reservations accepted only on and after March 1, 2018. Please email Laura Nauert at lnauert@menil.org or call 713-525-9435.

William Middleton

Double Vision: The Unerring Eye of Art World Avatars Dominique and John de Menil

Rothko Chapel, 3900 Yupon Street

Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m.

A co-presentation of Rothko Chapel and the Menil Collection

Rothko Chapel and the Menil Collection host a special reading celebrating the launch of William Middleton's *Double Vision*. With exceptional access to family archives, Middleton has written a biography of the couple as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the art world of the twentieth century and the influence of the de Menils. Middleton is a journalist and editor who has written for the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Vogue*, *House & Garden*, *Esquire*, *Texas Monthly*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Departures*, and the *International Herald Tribune*. He will sign copies of his book following the reading, and a reception for registered guests will be held at the Byzantine Fresco Chapel. Space is limited; visit www.rothkochapel.org for more information.

BYOB (Bring Your Own Beamer)

The Menil Collection, front lawn and façade, 1533 Sul Ross Street

Friday, April 6, 8:30–10:30 p.m. (Rain date: Friday, April 20, 2018)

Co-presented with Aurora Picture Show

This year's edition of BYOB will attract a new wave of filmmakers and videographers aiming their "beamers" (or projectors) at the exterior façade of the museum in a free-form display of every imaginable media, creating a dynamic, collaborative experience with moving images and light. Projectionists may register their beamers at www.aurorapictureshow.org. General viewers do not need to register and are encouraged to bring blankets for lawn seating and picnics.

Gideon Alorwoyie and the University of North Texas African Percussion Ensemble

African Music and Dance

The Menil Collection, front lawn, 1533 Sul Ross Street

Sunday, April 15, 4–6 p.m.

Professor Midawo Gideon Foli Alorwoyie is widely recognized as one of Ghana's foremost virtuosos of traditional music and dance. Alorwoyie, dancers, and musicians from the University of North Texas African Percussion Ensemble will present a range of traditional works from Togo, Ghana, and Benin. Alorwoyie was chief master drummer of the Ghana National Dance Ensemble for many years and has toured the world performing and teaching. He has worked with notable scholars and composers such as John Chernoff and Steve Reich.

All public programs are free and open to the public. Seating is limited. For the latest program information, please visit the events section of www.menil.org.

About the Menil Collection

A legacy of the philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil, the Menil Collection opened in 1987. The museum presents regular rotations of artworks from its growing permanent collection, organizes special exhibitions and programs throughout the year, publishes scholarly books, and conducts research into the conservation of modern and contemporary art. The Menil Collection's main museum building, the first building in the United States designed by Renzo Piano, anchors a parklike 30-acre campus, which also includes the Cy Twombly Gallery, a site-specific Dan Flavin installation, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel—now a venue for long-term installations by contemporary artists—and outdoor sculpture. A new building for the Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee, opening in 2018, will be the first freestanding facility in the United States designed expressly for the exhibition and study of modern and contemporary drawings. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and charges no admission fee.

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Image: Northeast corner of the Menil Collection's front lawn under the enormous live oak tree at Sul Ross and Mulberry Streets. Photo: Daniel Ortiz

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